

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-25 and 28-42 are pending in this application. The Title is amended to be more descriptive. Fig. 1 and the Specification are amended. Claims 1, 7, 11, 23, 33 and 35 are amended. The amendments do not add new matter, and entry at this time is proper.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested. These amendments, in conjunction with the following remarks, are believed to place the application in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of these amendments and favorable consideration of the application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of page 6 that claims 25, 28-31, and 35-42 are allowed. Applicants further note with appreciation that the Examiner acknowledges that claims 1, 4-9, 11-24 and 32-34 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the objections and rejections discussed below.

Office Action

The drawings stand objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Title stands objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Claims 33 and 35 stand objected to for certain informalities. Claims 1, 4-9, 11-24 and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the objections and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Objections

As noted above, the Title, drawings, and claims 33 and 35 are objected to. These objections are respectfully traversed.

The Title is objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. Applicants amend the Title in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, the objection to the Title is rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the Title.

The drawings stand objected to as allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the protective layer of claim 7 and 37 is not shown. Applicants amend Fig. 1

and the accompanying text in the specification to show protective layer 19. These amendments do not add new matter, and entry of the amendments at this time is proper. Thus, the objections are rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Claims 33 and 35 stand objected to for certain informalities. Applicants amend claims 33 and 35 to correct the informalities. Thus, the objections to claims 33 and 35 are rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 33 and 35.

Rejections

Claims 1, 4-9, 11-24 and 32-34 are rejected as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants amend the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions to traverse the rejections. Thus, Applicants maintain that the rejections are rendered moot. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the indefiniteness rejections.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact William F. Nixon (Reg. No. 44,262) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

MKM/WFN/kpc

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: Replacement Figure 1